

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04380 121441Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 DLOS-06

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8755

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, NL, TU

SUBJECT: ANTI-TURKISH FEELINGS IN THE NETHERLANDS

1. OVER THE PAST WEEKEND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME STRONG MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-TURKISH FEELINGS IN THE NETHERLANDS.
2. THEY OCCURRED IN SCHIEDAM, WHICH IS SUBURB OF ROTTERDAM. MANIFESTATIONS, WHICH FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS RUNNING ASSUMED THE PROPORTIONS OF A RIOT, WERE SET OFF BY THE STABBING OF A DUTCH YOUTH BY TWO MEN BELIEVED TO BE TURKS. BANDS OF DUTCH ROWDIES PROCEEDED TO TERRORIZE SOME NEIGHBORHOODS LARGELY INHABITED BY TURKISH GUEST-WORKERS. THERE HAS BEEN PROPERTY DAMAGE BUT, DUE TO LARGE-SCALE POLICE INTERVENTION, NO SERIOUS INJURIES OR LOSS OF LIFE.
3. THE SITUATION HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY. ON AUGUST 10 THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.
4. NOT ATYPICALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN PRIVATE EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET BORDERING ON ATONEMENT. THE DUTCH BRANCH OF A PRO-

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PAGE 02 THE HA 04380 121441Z

EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OPENED A BANK ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS TO

MAKE GOOD MATERIAL DAMAGE SUFFERED BY TURKISH INHABITANTS OF SCHIEDAM AND THIS HAS RECEIVED EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM THE MAYOR OF SCHIEDAM. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE INCIDENT GAVE RISE TO EDITORIAL AND OTHER NEWSPAPER COMMENT EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL DUTCH LIBERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGNERS.

5. RIOTS SUCH AS THE ONES WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK ARE RELATIVELY RARE IN THE NETHERLANDS. FOUR YEARS AGO, ALSO IN THE SUMMER, THERE WERE RIOTS DIRECTED AGAINST THE TURKS IN ROTTERDAM AND WERE APPARENTLY A REACTION TO THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF TURKS WERE SEEKING TO BUY HOUSES IN THE CITY.

6. COMMENT: THERE IS NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER THAT THESE ANTI-TURKISH MANIFESTATIONS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CURRENT DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY WITH RESPECT TO THE AEGEAN.

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Message Attributes

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